

one should be appointed either in his stead or to accompany him.

But this opposition died away of itself, while as Mr. and Mrs. Geddie became known throughout the church, they gained many friends and admirers, and it was found that he at least possessed in an eminent degree the qualifications of zeal and of intimate knowledge of the work he had undertaken: so that eventually the missionaries went forth with expressions of universal love and good will, and many of whom little was expected made considerable sacrifices in aid of their outfit and maintenance. So it came to pass that after Mr. Geddie had further increased his qualifications by some studies in medicine, printing, and other arts, there was, on Nov. 3rd, a solemn and affecting dedication service in Pictou, the home of his father and early friends; a last farewell to the aged mother who had devoted her son in infancy to whatever work God might have for him, and to relatives and old friends, many of whom were to see him for the last time; and on the 30th of Nov., the missionaries and their children sailed from Halifax to Boston, to begin their long and circuitous voyage, in one of the sailing ships of those days, to their destined field of labor, the precise site of which they would learn only after arrival at the Samoan Islands and conference with the missionaries there.

How they were prospered on their voyage; and how, after much consultation and inquiry, they were finally placed on Aneityum, the most southern of the New Hebrides Group: and how their work was blessed; and the laborers that followed them and the remarkable success and extension of the mission:—these things are written in Patterson's biographies of Geddie and his companions, in Inglis' "New Hebrides," and in Murray's "Missions in Western Polynesia," and in many other reports and publications. But above all it is written in heaven with the names of many converts introduced into the kingdom of God from that Melanesian race, which, so far as we know, had been an outcast from the knowledge of God and His Salvation, almost from the dawn of history.

It was nearly twenty years later when my wife and I had the pleasure of receiving Dr. and Mrs. Geddie in our home in Montreal, on the occasion of their return for a time to visit the church in Canada; when the marvellous success of their mission was known throughout the Christian world, and when Dr. Geddie could say that he had been unable to bring with him a specimen of the idols of Aneityum, because no heathen remained on the Island.

So soon as letters began to arrive from the missionaries, they were published in the provincial newspapers. But it was felt by the Mission Board that more than this was needed; and more especially that facts were in demand respecting the field to be occupied and its people, and the ways

in which the Mission might be aided from home.

Another venture was therefore undertaken, and in January, 1850, the first number of the *Missionary Register* was issued. It was desired to obtain the co-operation of the Board of Home Missions, but it pleaded want of means, and would only undertake to contribute some matter to the pages of the new journal. The Rev. George Patterson, who had become a member of the Foreign Board, and has since greatly distinguished himself in literary pursuits, was placed in editorial charge of the new periodical, which consisted of sixteen pages monthly, and I undertook to give any assistance I could. We chose as a motto, or war cry, for the *Register*, the first verse of the 67th Psalm, the missionary hymn of the Old Testament, in one of the Scottish metrical versions:

"Lord bless and pity us,  
Shine on us with us with thy face:  
That th'earth thy way and nations all,  
May know thy saving grace."

It was a plain, rude little journal, got up in a way that would be despised in these more luxurious days; but its matter was of an able and stirring character and in looking over some of the old numbers it appears to me that it was in no respect inferior to its contemporaries and successors among missionary periodicals, in spirit and attractiveness. Geddie's letters in particular were very much above the average of missionary correspondence, and were full of graphic pictures of the Islands and their people, as well as animated by a fine spirit of consideration for them and their peculiarities.

The *Register* was merged, at the Union of 1860, into the *Home and Foreign Record*, which, at the larger Union of 1875, gave place, with others, to the *PRESBYTERIAN RECORD*.

A few thoughts may be added as to the lessons of Dr. Geddie's work. In any great enterprise the first thing is to find suitable men or women to carry it on. If they are found, the means also can be obtained; but mere gifts of money are often lost or squandered, because the agents for employing them to advantage are not forthcoming. Geddie's mission began in the man himself, and that was its great strength.

Geddie's work is also an illustration of how much a single man, animated by the Divine Spirit, can do. When he began the agitation on behalf of a Foreign Mission, no one could have imagined that it would grow to such proportions, and how many, not only in Canada, but elsewhere, would be induced to interest themselves in it.

Nor is the task by any means complete. It has yet to grow to greater things even in Western Polynesia and Australasia. God may have in His grace much in store for